

TABLE 18

The table below presents a 22-year record of the differences between the August projection and the final estimate. Using world wheat production as an example, changes between the August projection and the final estimate have averaged 12.0 million tons (2.2%) percent) and ranged from -32.1 to 19.5 million tons. The August projection has been below the final 12 times and above the final 10 times.

RELIABILITY OF PRODUCTION PROJECTIONS

COMMODITY AND		PROJECTION AND FINAL ESTIMATES, 1981/82 - 2001/02 1/				
REGION	Difference		Lowest	Highest	Below Final	Above Final
	Average	Average	Difference			
	Percent	---Million metric tons---		Number of years 2/		
WHEAT						
World	2.2	12.0	-32.1	19.5	12	10
U.S.	1.9	1.2	-3.4	4.2	7	15
Foreign	2.5	11.4	-31.1	17.8	12	10
COARSE GRAINS 3/						
World	1.9	15.5	-45.9	32.7	15	7
U.S.	4.9	10.5	-21.8	31.4	15	7
Foreign	1.8	10.8	-28.8	20.0	11	11
RICE (Milled)						
World	2.0	6.7	-24.4	3.5	15	7
U.S.	5.0	0.3	-0.6	0.5	13	9
Foreign	2.0	6.7	-24.7	3.8	16	6
SOYBEANS						
World	3.1	4.0	-12.5	5.0	14	8
U.S.	4.7	2.8	-6.4	6.3	10	12
Foreign	6.5	4.3	-10.6	6.1	13	9
	---Million 480-lb. bales---					
COTTON						
World	3.4	2.8	-11.1	10.5	12	10
U.S.	5.9	0.9	-1.9	3.9	12	9
Foreign	3.8	2.6	-10.7	10.2	11	10
UNITED STATES	-----Million bushels-----					
CORN	5.3	381	-889	1079	14	8
SORGHUM	6.7	42	-82	108	12	10
BARLEY	4.9	20	-63	67	8	14
OATS	7.6	18	-26	57	5	17

1/ The final estimate for 1981/82-2001/02 is defined as the first November estimate following the marketing year.

2/ May not total 22 if projection was the same as the final.

3/ Includes corn, sorghum, barley, oats, rye, millet, and mixed grain.